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Region 2 News Clips

Hudson River Cleanup Focuses on Shore After Dredging Ends (ASSOCIATED PRESS; December 10, 2017)

SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — As General Electric seeks to close the books on a \$1.7 billion cleanup of the upper Hudson River, a new fight is simmering over the company's legacy of toxic pollution in the region.

EPA targets two North Jersey Superfund sites for expedited cleanup (NORTH JERSEY; December 8, 2017)

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Christie administration diverted \$3 million from Meadowlands restoration fund (NORTH JERSEY; December 8, 2017)

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Sewage reporting program shows improvement (ALBANY TIMES-UNION; December 7, 2017)

A five-year-old state law requiring municipal sewage systems to report spills quickly appears to be working with more places now filing reports, according to a report released Thursday by an environmental watchdog group.

City's harbors are cleaner than they've been in a century, report shows (AM NY; December 7, 2017)

The mayor and Department of Environmental Protection officials will reveal Thursday that the city's harbors are the healthiest they have been in more than a century.

National News

Under Trump, E.P.A. Has Slowed Actions Against Polluters, and Put Limits on Enforcement Officers (NEW YORK TIMES; December 10, 2017)

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio — The highway billboard at the entrance to town still displays a giant campaign photograph of President Trump, who handily won the election across industrial Ohio. But a revolt is brewing here in East Liverpool over Mr. Trump’s move to slow down the federal government’s policing of air and water pollution.

The Scientists Who Track Climate Change in the Field (NEW YORK TIMES; December 11, 2017)

While the consequences of climate change — fierce storms, fragmenting glaciers, blazing fires — can be dramatic, the scientific research supporting its existence is anything but. It’s precise, rigorous and routine work, and though it takes place every day all over the world, it largely goes unnoticed.

EPA lists 21 toxic Superfund sites that need ‘immediate and intense’ cleanup (WASHINGTON POST; December 8, 2017)

The Environmental Protection Agency released a list of Superfund sites around the country Friday that it said regulators will target “for immediate and intense attention.”

EPA removes climate change references from website, report says (CNN; December 8, 2017)

References to climate change and the Environmental Protection Agency's use of renewable energy have been removed from several of its web pages, according to an analysis by the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative.

Full Articles

Region 2 News

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hudson River Cleanup Focuses on Shore After Dredging Ends

By Mary Esch

December 10, 2017

SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — As General Electric seeks to close the books on a \$1.7 billion cleanup of the upper Hudson River, a new fight is simmering over the company's legacy of toxic pollution in the region.

This time, the focus is not on whether the fish are safe to eat, but whether children are safe playing in riverside parks and backyards that are prone to frequent flooding. Boston-based GE has agreed to spend \$20 million testing soil in the river's flood plain along the 40-mile-long stretch of river where it completed dredging 2.75 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment in 2015.

But it hasn't agreed to remove soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, which are suspected of causing cancer and other health problems. That will require a legal agreement negotiated with the Environmental Protection Agency.

An actual cleanup project in flood plain areas is at least five years away, after soil testing now underway is completed, followed by a human health impact study and designing a cleanup plan.

In the waterfront village of Schuylerville, site of key events in the Revolutionary War, the protracted process of initiating a flood plain cleanup plan doesn't sit well with residents and officials who have been trying for years to get state or federal agencies to remove contaminated sediment from an old section of the Champlain Canal that connects to the river.

"In our estimation, the EPA made a huge error when it didn't include the canal in the Hudson River dredging because they said it was standing water," said Schuylerville Mayor Dan Carpenter. "It's hydrologically connected to the river and was flowing when the PCBs were released" from GE plants upstream more than 40 years ago.

Carpenter and residents want the EPA to order GE to clean up the canal now. Julie Stokes, who represents the local chamber of commerce on EPA's Community Advisory Group for the Hudson River Superfund cleanup project, said there's a window of opportunity to do that in the next few weeks.

The EPA is completing its second five-year review of the Hudson River dredging and may soon act on GE's request that the agency formally declare the project complete, which would diminish its ability to order the company to undertake additional cleanup actions.

"Our position is, don't close the books on that until you fix this problem," said Dave Roberts, a retired contractor in Schuylerville who's helping create a heritage tourism center beside the canal.

The banks of the mile-long ribbon of water in the heart of the village sometimes overflow during

thunderstorms and flood adjacent properties, including nearby Fort Hardy Park. Residents fear floodwaters will breach a dike and carry contaminated silt that has accumulated so deep that the canal is a cattail-filled swamp in some places.

"Should the dike fail, all that goop would flow right down into the park," Roberts said.

Fort Hardy Park is not only a popular recreation area but also a significant historic site. It's where Gen. John Burgoyne's defeated British troops lay down their arms in surrender in 1777, giving the Americans their first major victory.

GE invested \$1.7 billion in the river dredging project, which EPA has said has met its goals. The state Department of Environmental Conservation and environmental groups disagree with the EPA and say too much PCB-contaminated sediment remains in the river.

In the flood plain phase of the cleanup, GE has analyzed more than 7,000 samples from 3,000 locations so far, company spokesman Mark Behan said. About 80 percent of samples showed no PCBs or very low levels.

In areas with higher PCB levels that are used by the public, GE has done about 60 urgent projects including covering contaminated areas at a park and a kayak launch with rocks and sand.

After DEC's tests over the summer showed elevated PCB levels in the old canal, the agency requested that EPA do further sampling to determine if such an emergency action is needed to protect people who use the park.

An EPA spokeswoman said GE took samples from the old canal and areas susceptible to flooding, including the Fort Hardy Park, over the past week, but results aren't available yet.

NORTH JERSEY

EPA targets two North Jersey Superfund sites for expedited cleanup

December 8, 2017

By James O'Neill and Scott Fallon

The federal Environmental Protection Agency identified a portion of the Passaic River and Berry's Creek in the Meadowlands on Friday as two Superfund sites that will receive more "intense attention" from the agency as it decides the best route for cleanups.

The two North Jersey sites are among 21 Superfund sites across the country that have been

added to a special list requested by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to receive more immediate focus.

However, the new designation does not provide any additional funding to help with cleanups. And agreements with polluters, which often take years, will have to be secured.

The agency wants to target a nine-mile stretch of the Passaic River – from Belleville north to Clifton and Garfield – contaminated with cancer-causing dioxin.

Within the next month or two, companies and other entities responsible for the pollution are expected to submit to EPA an investigation they have been conducting that includes the nine miles, the agency said Friday evening.

The EPA already ordered polluters last year to conduct a \$1.4 billion cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the river from Belleville south to Newark Bay.



Polluters have already removed some of the cancer-causing dioxin from the lower Passaic River near the former Diamond Alkali plant in Newark. But much of the contamination is still spread out in the river's lower 17 miles. (Photo: File photo)

Much of the pollution comes from the former Diamond Alkali facility in Newark where dioxin was dumped into the river during the production of the notorious defoliant known as Agent Orange, used during the Vietnam War. Other chemicals of concern include PCBs, mercury and pesticides.

Berry's Creek is a tributary of the Hackensack River in the Meadowlands. After seven years of study and research, the EPA has been inching closer to a proposed cleanup plan for the highly contaminated creek.



Berry's Creek south of the Meadowlands Sports Complex. (Photo: James W. Anness/NorthJersey.com file photo)

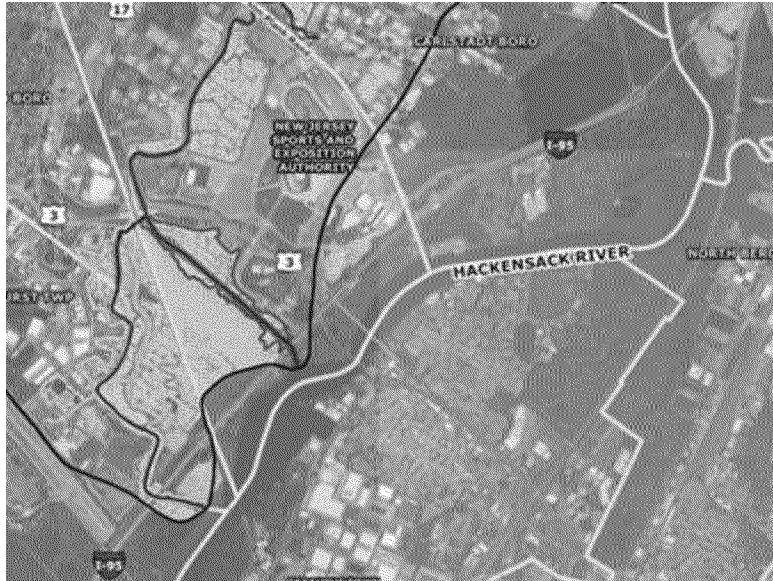
The cleanup of sediment contaminated with mercury and PCBs will likely wind up being some combination of dredging and capping, and the plan should be ready sometime in mid-to-late 2018, the EPA said Friday.

The actual cleanup would still be three or more years away.

Mercury levels in Berry's Creek are among the highest ever recorded in a freshwater ecosystem in the United States.

Berry's Creek starts near Teterboro Airport and twists around MetLife Stadium flowing through parts of Teterboro, Wood-Ridge, Lyndhurst, Carlstadt, Rutherford and East Rutherford.

Much of the contamination has come from the three Superfund sites along the creek: the Ventron/Velsicol site in Wood-Ridge, where mercury was removed from discarded lab equipment, batteries and other devices; the Universal Oil Products site in East Rutherford; and the Scientific Chemical Processing site in Carlstadt, which was a waste-processing facility.



Map of the Berry's Creek in blue. (Photo: EPA)

EPA officials are concerned about people who go crabbing in the Berry's Creek area, because many fish and crabs are contaminated with mercury.

Also included on the new list is a third New Jersey site, the American Cyanamid Superfund Site in Bridgewater Township.

NORTH JERSEY

Christie administration diverted \$3 million from Meadowlands restoration fund

By Scott Fallon

December 8, 2017

The Christie administration has quietly drained a state agency of its entire \$3 million budget, money intended to acquire and preserve land in the Meadowlands, officials confirmed Thursday.

Members of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust said they were shocked to learn this week that the money was diverted to the state general fund in August, about a month after the state budget was approved.

"This is not a diversion, this is theft," said Bill Sheehan, chairman of the trust.

The trust was formed in 1999 by the Legislature to acquire and preserve "environmentally valuable land" and enhance the environment of the Meadowlands. It is a state agency that "is in but not of" the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which provides support services.

Willem Rijkssen, a spokesman for the Treasury Department, said the funds had been moved in 2012 to the Department of Community Affairs, where they sat unused. The \$3.06 million was identified by Treasury officials to the Legislature as "a lapse" on March 13, 2017, he said. A lapse is an automatic termination of money appropriated for a specific purpose.

When the Legislature approved the budget in July, the money was sent to the general fund, Rijkssen said.

Sports authority staffers found out about the diversion only this week, when they were preparing a public meeting for the trust that would deal partly with finances. They were told that the money had been moved in August.

"We were unaware this happened until this week," said Brian Aberback, a spokesman for the authority, who declined to comment further.

Trust officials said they should have been notified.

"We were totally blindsided," said Greg Remaud, vice chairman of the trust. "We don't know how this happened. We just received a call [from authority officials] that Treasury had pulled it back."

Sheehan said the loss of \$3 million will harm several immediate efforts, including one to secure and restore wetlands from a developer that recently approached the trust. It will also harm plans to restore land on the southern end of the Richard P. Kane Natural Area, a 587-acre preserve in Carlstadt and South Hackensack that the trust owns, Sheehan said.

"It completely disables what we do," Sheehan said. "I can't talk to anyone with a straight face about buying land."



A great blue heron and northern shoveler in the Meadowlands. (Photo: Michael Karas/@michaelkarasphoto)

The \$3 million did not come directly from taxpayers. Most of it came from lease agreements with companies that restore the Kane tract and then sell credits allowing developers to affect wetlands elsewhere. Money also comes from the sale of Meadowlands license plates.

Sheehan said the trust still has \$2 million in an operating account that allows it to reimburse the authority for its services.

Christie has a history of diverting environment funds to help balance the budget. Over his eight years in office, he has taken more than \$1 billion from the state's clean energy program and diverted it to the general fund. He also moved almost \$300 million of the \$355 million received from three legal settlements with Passaic River polluters.

In response, voters approved a constitutional amendment in November that would block any governor from using environment settlement funds for anything other than "restoring and protecting natural resources and paying the costs of pursuing the settlements."

SARATOGIAN NEWS

GE samples Old Champlain Canal for PCBs

By Paul Post

December 8, 2017

SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y. >> General Electric tested the Old Champlain Canal for PCBs this week, in response to concerns raised by state and local officials about contamination to nearby Fort Hardy Park, where many youth recreation activities are held.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which ordered the testing, says immediate protective steps will be taken if a threat to public safety is found.

In June, a severe storm caused the old canal to overflow, depositing sediment at Fort Hardy Park. Two samples taken by the state Department of Environmental Conservation found elevated PCB levels.

The DEC and village officials recently urged EPA to make GE do more sampling, to determine the full extent of possible contamination.

Advertisement

“GE’s team collected samples in the Old Champlain Canal this week under the oversight of EPA and New York State, and will share the results with EPA, New York State and the village of Schuylerville once the data have been analyzed,” GE spokesman Mark Behan said. “We will continue to work cooperatively with EPA and the village on this matter.”

Sampling occurred along a one-mile section of the old canal. In Schuylerville, river water enters the canal at Lock 5, north of the village, and exits to the south in Fish Creek, a river tributary.

The old canal was not included in a Record of Decision that ordered GE to remove PCBs from the river.

The old canal is considered part of a floodplain surrounding both sides of the river from Fort Edward, where PCBs originated, to Troy. EPA says other sections of the old canal, in addition to Schuylerville, have been assessed for PCB contamination.

“As part of EPA’s comprehensive study, more than 7,700 samples have been collected to date in the floodplain, which includes about 1,700 properties over approximately 5,500 acres,” EPA spokesperson Larisa Romanowski said. “This year’s sampling effort began in early October 2017 and is expected to wrap up in the next couple of weeks. Sampling will continue in 2018. Sampling will continue in future years as needed to appropriately identify where the PCBs are located.”

Plans called for sampling 16 sites on the old canal.

“The EPA will review all of the data and determine if additional samples need to be collected in

the canal,” Romanowski said.

The old canal is not connected to the main river for navigation. However, because river water still flows into it, some parties believe the canal should have been included in the original Record of Decision, which mandated river cleanup.

A separate floodplain Record of Decision might be several years away, said Julia Stokes, of Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce.

PCBs in the old canal should be dealt with now, by going back and amending the original Record of Decision, she said.

But Romanowski said, “While the EPA’s comprehensive study in the floodplain is ongoing, if, at any time there is a need to take expedited action to address potential exposures and protect people’s health, we will not wait until the completion of the study. We will act immediately. The EPA has already conducted over 60 of these short-term response actions along the upper Hudson River, including in the bowl area, where the town gazebo used to be, in Fort Hardy Park. These actions are considered temporary, pending the final cleanup decision for the floodplain.”

ALBANY TIMES-UNION

Sewage reporting program shows improvement

By Brian Nearing

December 7, 2017

A five-year-old state law requiring municipal sewage systems to report spills quickly appears to be working with more places now filing reports, according to a report released Thursday by an environmental watchdog group.

"Disclosure under the Sewage Pollution Right to Know Act has markedly improved," said Elizabeth Moran, a water issues analyst with the not-for-profit Environmental Advocates of New York. "New Yorkers are getting a clearer picture of the state's sewage overflow problem."

From when the law started in early 2013 through July 2017, there have been more than 10,600 sewage spills — totaling about 3.8 billion gallons that reached rivers and streams — reported publicly and to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The law was meant to help people know when it might be unsafe to go into tainted rivers or streams. Sewage waste contains harmful bacteria that can make people sick.

An issue with reports early on, where some sewer operators were often reporting spills of zero gallons, also appears to be waning.

So far in 2017, about 10 percent of some 2,500 reports contain no estimated figures on how much sewage was spilled. That would be a violation of DEC regulations, which requires that spill amounts be estimated in the reports.

Reports without such estimates are down from 13 percent of reports in 2016, 29 percent in 2015, 90 percent in 2014, and 79 percent in 2013, according to the report. "So-called zero reports send a misleading message to the public," said Moran.

The study recommended that DEC hire more regulators, that the state increase spending to as much as \$800 million a year to help local governments upgrade aging sewer systems, and to help pay for monitoring systems so local officials can better estimate how much sewage is being spilled.

DEC officials took issue with the report, claiming the environmental group lacked a "basic understanding" of the law.

"The law was designed to alert the public in the event that discharges may be occurring, rather than tracking the specific amounts or duration of overflows," according to the DEC statement. "The report ignores the fact that the overwhelming majority of communities are in full compliance with the law."

The state has earmarked \$2.5 billion to upgrade water and sewage systems in coming years, and sees that as a better use of funds than helping pay for equipment to provide accurate measurements of sewage spills, the statement continued.

Said Moran, "Reporting, while significantly improved, still falls short of reporting all sewage events."

She noted that the Erie County town of Cheektowaga has submitted more reports than any other community in the state, even though it "is unlikely Cheektowaga has the most sewage overflow events in the state."

Other localities have not filed a single spill report, Moran said, calling a complete dearth of spills unlikely.

AM NY

City's harbors are cleaner than they've been in a century, report shows

By Ivan Pereira

December 7, 2017

The mayor and Department of Environmental Protection officials will reveal Thursday that the city's harbors are the healthiest they have been in more than a century.

The city said the waterways have shed bacteria, gained dissolved oxygen that marine life thrives on and experienced a drop in nitrogen, which deoxidizes the water, over the past decades.

Still, the agency's annual harbor water quality report released in spring found dissolved oxygen levels in the water were above the state's standard for when water is safe to drink or bathe in.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza said the harbors have benefitted from upgrades to the city's wastewater system, which prevent excess storm water and waste from flowing into the oceans.

"Anecdotal evidence of whales, dolphins and seals returning to New York Harbor abound, and our testing confirms that the water in New York Harbor is cleaner today than it has been in more than a century," Sapienza said in a statement.

De Blasio said his \$1.5 billion green infrastructure plan, which includes green roofs, gardens and other efforts to plant vegetation on impervious surfaces, has contributed to the improving water quality.

City Hall said it will have added 4,000 curbside gardens, which are designed to absorb rainwater, by the end of 2017. Under its green infrastructure plan, another 300 are slated to be built in 2018.

National News

NEW YORK TIMES

Under Trump, E.P.A. Has Slowed Actions Against Polluters, and Put Limits on Enforcement Officers

By Eric Lipton and Danielle Ivory

December 10, 2017

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio — The highway billboard at the entrance to town still displays a giant campaign photograph of President Trump, who handily won the election across industrial Ohio. But a revolt is brewing here in East Liverpool over Mr. Trump's move to slow down the federal government's policing of air and water pollution.

The City Council moved unanimously last month to send a protest letter to the Environmental Protection Agency about a hazardous waste incinerator near downtown. Since Mr. Trump took office, the E.P.A. has not moved to punish the plant's owner, even after extensive evidence was assembled during the Obama administration that the plant had repeatedly, and illegally, released harmful pollutants into the air.

"I don't know where we go," Councilman William Hogue, a retired social studies teacher, said in frustration to his fellow council members. "They haven't resolved anything."

Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. administrator, has said the Trump administration's high-profile regulatory rollback does not mean a free pass for violators of environmental laws. But as the Trump administration moves from one attention-grabbing headline to the next, it has taken a significant but less-noticed turn in the enforcement of federal pollution laws.

An analysis of enforcement data by The New York Times shows that the administration has adopted a more lenient approach than the previous two administrations — Democratic and Republican — toward polluters like those in East Liverpool.



Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. administrator, listening to President Trump's remarks during a cabinet meeting in Washington this month. Credit Doug Mills/The New York Times

The Times built a database of civil cases filed at the E.P.A. during the Trump, Obama and Bush administrations. During the first nine months under Mr. Pruitt's leadership, the E.P.A. started about 1,900 cases, about one-third fewer than the number under President Barack Obama's first E.P.A. director and about one-quarter fewer than under President George W. Bush's over the

same time period.

In addition, the agency sought civil penalties of about \$50.4 million from polluters for cases initiated under Mr. Trump. Adjusted for inflation, that is about 39 percent of what the Obama administration sought and about 70 percent of what the Bush administration sought over the same time period.

The E.P.A., turning to one of its most powerful enforcement tools, also can force companies to retrofit their factories to cut pollution. Under Mr. Trump, those demands have dropped sharply. The agency has demanded about \$1.2 billion worth of such fixes, known as injunctive relief, in cases initiated during the nine-month period, which, adjusted for inflation, is about 12 percent of what was sought under Mr. Obama and 48 percent under Mr. Bush.

Resolving complicated pollution cases can take time, and the E.P.A. said it remained committed to ensuring companies obeyed environmental laws.

“E.P.A. and states work together to find violators and bring them back into compliance, and to punish intentional polluters,” the agency said in a statement. Officials said Mr. Pruitt was less fixated on seeking large penalties than some of his predecessors were.

“We focus more on bringing people back into compliance than bean counting,” the statement said.

After this article was posted, the E.P.A. issued a statement criticizing the report, and saying that “Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to enforcement,” and that “there is no reduction in E.P.A.’s commitment to ensure compliance with our nation’s environmental laws.”

Confidential internal E.P.A. documents show that the enforcement slowdown coincides with major policy changes ordered by Mr. Pruitt’s team after pleas from oil and gas industry executives.

The documents, which were reviewed by The Times, indicate that E.P.A. enforcement officers across the country no longer have the authority to order certain air and water pollution tests, known as requests for information, without receiving permission from Washington. The tests are essential to building a case against polluters, the equivalent of the radar gun for state highway troopers.

At at least two of the agency’s most aggressive regional offices, requests for information involving companies suspected of polluting have fallen significantly under Mr. Trump, according to internal E.P.A. data.

In the last two complete fiscal years of the Obama administration, the E.P.A.’s office in Chicago sent requests for testing that covered an average of 50 facilities per year, or about 4.2 each month. By comparison, after the policy changes, one such request for a single facility was made in the subsequent four-month period. There was a similar decline in the Denver regional office, according to the data.

The enforcement slowdown has been compounded by the departure of more than 700 employees at the E.P.A. since Mr. Trump's election, many of them via buyouts intended to reduce the agency's size, and high-level political vacancies at the E.P.A. and the Justice Department. The agency's top enforcement officer — Susan Bodine — was confirmed only late last week.

Separately, Mr. Pruitt's team has told officials and industry representatives in Missouri, North Dakota and other states that E.P.A. enforcement officers will stand down on some pollution cases, according to agency documents. The retrenchment is said to be part of a nationwide handoff of many enforcement duties to state authorities, an effort Mr. Pruitt calls cooperative federalism but critics say is an industry-friendly way to ease up on polluters.

Current and recently departed E.P.A. staff members said the new direction has left many employees feeling frozen in place, and demoralized, particularly in the regional offices, which have investigators who are especially knowledgeable of local pollution threats.



Nicole Cantello, an E.P.A. lawyer in the Chicago office, who has worked at the agency for 26 years. Credit Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

“Certain people who are polluting are doing it with impunity right now and I think it is horrible,” said Nicole Cantello, an E.P.A. lawyer in the Chicago office, who has worked at the agency for 26 years.

Ms. Cantello agreed to speak to The Times because she is protected by her status as a union official. The E.P.A. did not authorize agency employees to speak.

The Times asked top E.P.A. enforcement officials from the Obama and Bush administrations to review The Times's data, analysis and methodology. They said the slowdown signaled a sea change in enforcement under Mr. Trump.

“Those kinds of numbers are stark,” said Granta Nakayama, a lawyer who served in the Bush administration as assistant administrator for the E.P.A.’s enforcement office and who now represents companies facing E.P.A. enforcement actions for the law firm King & Spalding, where he oversees the environmental practice.

“If you’re not filing cases, the cop’s not on the beat,” he said. “Or has the cop been taken off the beat?”

Cynthia Giles, the former assistant administrator for the E.P.A.’s enforcement office during the Obama administration, also prepared a separate version of the data. She described as a “stunning decline” the reduced efforts under Mr. Trump to require companies to bring their facilities into compliance with pollution laws.

“The Pruitt E.P.A. is cratering on the enforcement work that matters most: holding the biggest polluters accountable,” said Ms. Giles, now a director at the Energy & Environment Lab at the University of Chicago.

Some enforcement experts suggested that the E.P.A. under Mr. Pruitt might have filed fewer cases because it was going after larger penalties. But according to the Times analysis, most of the top penalties were smaller than those in the previous two administrations. And the nine-month window included the single largest civil case filed by the E.P.A., against Exxon Mobil.

‘It Really Just Scares Me’



The Heritage Thermal plant after the July 2013 accident. Credit: Heritage Thermal, via an accident report to EPA

On a midsummer afternoon in 2013, boiler ash and steam blasted through a breach at the Heritage Thermal Services hazardous waste incinerator, spewing hundreds of pounds of ash into a nearby neighborhood in East Liverpool and setting off a series of small fires at the plant.

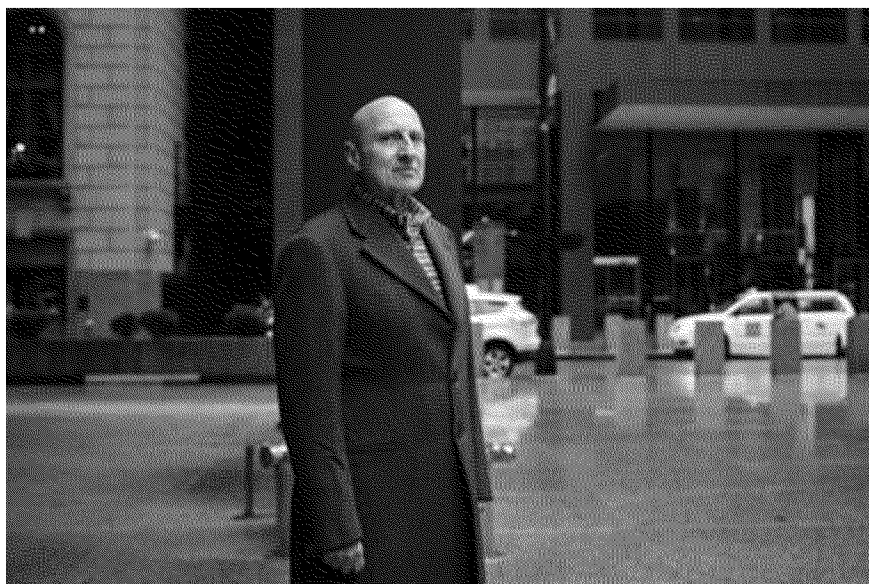
Tests later showed that the ash, which looked like dirty clumps of cotton candy scattered across rooftops and lawns, contained toxic chemicals. In some samples, lead and arsenic were found at concentrations that “could pose a hazard to small children,” according to an Ohio Department of Health report. Heritage Thermal went door to door offering to wash people’s houses and replace vegetables in their gardens.

Sandra Estell, 64, who lives on a river bluff overlooking the plant, said the ash covered her brother’s Chevy Blazer and blanketed the street where she grew up. Even when the plant operates normally, she said, she smells the incinerator from her home — with the odor changing from rotten eggs to an electrical fire to something difficult to place.

Truckloads of hazardous waste often sit in the parking lot outside the plant, awaiting disposal. On the day of the accident in 2013, the plant was burning through a load of waste sent from an oil refinery in Toledo.

“It really just scares me,” Ms. Estell said of the incinerator.

The plant falls under the jurisdiction of the E.P.A. regional office in Chicago, which moved quickly to investigate the episode as a possible violation of the Clean Air Act, federal records show.



George T. Czerniak outside the E.P.A.’s office in Chicago, where he was a regional director of air and radiation. CreditAlyssa Schukar for The New York Times

Investigators sent Heritage Thermal’s general manager what is known as a Section 114(a)

request for detailed information on the explosion. Failing to answer the questions, warned George T. Czerniak, who was then the E.P.A.'s Chicago-based director of the air and radiation division, could result in punishment.

Heritage Thermal complied within weeks, and also disclosed that the plant had faced a series of related problems when pressure inside the incinerator had climbed to dangerous levels. Mr. Czerniak asked for more information about those episodes, and by March 2015 he had signed a formal letter of complaint, alleging a series of Clean Air Act violations that would very likely result in fines, as well as possible civil or criminal action.

"We are offering you an opportunity to confer with us about the violations," Mr. Czerniak wrote in the letter. "You may have an attorney represent you at this conference."

DOCUMENT



OPEN DOCUMENT

More than two and a half years later, the matter remains unresolved, leading to the letter of complaint to the E.P.A. last month from the East Liverpool City Council. The body is dominated by Democrats, but it says its motivation in criticizing the E.P.A. is based on concerns about public safety and not partisan politics.

John Mercer, a City Council member, said taking on air pollution issues at Heritage Thermal has been a delicate matter because the area has lost thousands of jobs as steel and pottery manufacturing plants closed. "Heritage Thermal is one of the city's largest employers," he said. "We are all friends and neighbors with those that work there."

Still, he said, residents want the matter resolved. "Our constituents deserve answers that no one seems to want to provide," he said.

A spokesman for the E.P.A. declined to comment on the case's status, as did Christopher T. Pherson, president of Heritage Thermal. The company said in a statement that it "is committed to continuously enhancing its performance and environmental compliance."

Ms. Estell, who was critical of the plant even before it opened in the 1990s for being built near homes, blames the change in administrations in Washington for the inaction. “Something made them slam on the brakes,” she said.

Every administration runs into delays when investigating and enforcing environmental laws, and it is hard to pinpoint why any particular case might stall without access to confidential E.P.A. files. But the lack of action in East Liverpool mirrors a pattern of sluggish new enforcement activity under the Trump administration, as represented in data analyzed by The Times.

The Times identified more than a dozen companies or plants like Heritage Thermal that received notices of violation toward the end of the Obama administration, but as of late November had not faced E.P.A. penalties. The findings were based on agency files released through a Freedom of Information Act request to the Environmental Integrity Project, a nonprofit group run by a former E.P.A. enforcement chief.

Indiana Harbor Coke in East Chicago, Ind., has received at least three warning notices since 2015 for pollution violations, including hundreds of illegal emissions of lead, which can cause serious health problems, especially for children.

Other cases include TimkenSteel Corporation of Canton, Ohio, which was served with a notice in November 2015 for illegally emitting hazardous toxins, including mercury, which, when inhaled in large quantities, can cause pulmonary edema, respiratory failure and death.

In Waterford, Ohio, Globe Metallurgical was cited in June 2015 and December 2016 for air pollution violations. The E.P.A. collected evidence that it was emitting illegal amounts of sulfur dioxide, which can irritate the nose and throat and, at very high concentrations, cause life-threatening accumulation of fluid in the lungs.



S.H. Bell dries, crushes, screens and packages materials for industrial customers in East Liverpool, Ohio. It sometimes works with manganese, which can produce toxic levels of dust. Credit Andrew Spear for The New York Times

And in East Liverpool, just down the street from the Heritage Thermal incinerator, S.H. Bell was cited for allowing toxic levels of dust with heavy metal chemical additives such as manganese to drift beyond its property line.

Tests conducted near S.H. Bell found “the highest levels of ambient manganese concentrations in the United States,” a complaint issued during the Obama administration said. Health officials warned that the situation represented “a public health hazard and should be mitigated as soon as possible to reduce harmful exposures.”

Research led by the University of Cincinnati found in September that levels of manganese in the blood and hair of children in East Liverpool appeared to be related to lower I.Q. scores, a conclusion executives from S.H. Bell have disputed.

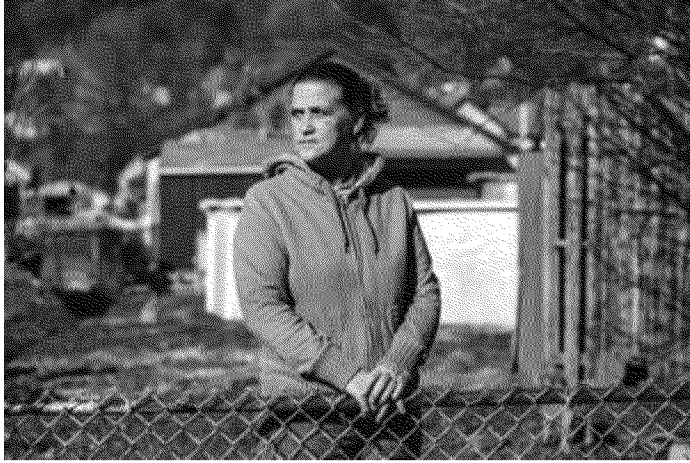
The Heritage Thermal plant during the July 2013 accident.

The E.P.A. moved in the final days of the Obama administration to resolve the S.H. Bell matter, proposing a consent decree in January that would require changes to reduce manganese dust levels and to improve monitoring.

Generally, a proposed consent decree is resolved within several months, but in March, the Trump administration asked a federal judge to delay the case so the E.P.A. could “brief incoming administration officials with decision-making responsibility” given that “many subordinate political positions at the agency remain unfilled.” The Justice Department has since asked the court to move ahead, but the case remains open.

A spokeswoman for S.H. Bell said that the company had moved to comply with the requirements and that its operations had not harmed residents. The E.P.A. said in a statement that it was waiting for the court to act. “It would not be appropriate to discuss the open enforcement matters,” the statement said.

Roberta Pratt, 49, a bartender who lives with her family on a block situated between Heritage Thermal and S.H. Bell, said she worries constantly about the delays in enforcement at the facilities. The side of her house, she said, is stained with a rusty color from heavy metals that float through the air.



Roberta Pratt outside her home in East Liverpool, Ohio. She said she doesn't have the money to move away from the nearby industrial facilities. Credit Andrew Spear for The New York Times

"It makes me feel like less of a mother," said Ms. Pratt of the pollution problems. "You can't protect your children."

Fighting back tears, she added, "People say to me, 'Why don't you just pick up and move out of here?' Well, I just don't have the money to do that."

Industry Gets a Sympathetic Ear

The memo was marked "Privileged/Confidential/Do Not Release" and was signed by Susan Shinkman, the director of civil enforcement at the E.P.A. and one of Mr. Pruitt's top deputies in Washington at the time.

It arrived by email to agency employees across the country on May 31.

With four pages of detailed instructions, it directed E.P.A. investigators to seek authorization before asking companies to track their emissions with instruments that determine the type and amount of pollutants being released at their plants.

It also said investigators needed special authorization if they did not already have evidence that the company had quite likely violated the law, or if state authorities objected to the tests.

The scope was far-reaching, applying to possible violations of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and federal laws regulating hazardous waste plants.

The goal of these changes, the memo said, was to "ensure a more nationally consistent and complete accounting of federal compliance monitoring and enforcement activities." But the directive arrived like a thunderbolt, upending one of the agency's most effective methods in catching polluters, E.P.A. regional officials said, and one that was extremely unpopular with the oil and gas industry.

In the prior two years, investigators in the Chicago office had sent requests for information — which includes requests for testing — that covered 267 facilities in the six Midwest states it oversees, including in cases involving giant mountains of petcoke stored near residential neighborhoods in Chicago. A carbon and sulfur byproduct of refining oil, petcoke particles can become airborne and enter the lungs, causing serious health effects.



A mound of petcoke in southeast Chicago. Its particles can damage people's health by becoming airborne and entering their lungs. Credit Charles Rex Arbogast/Associated Press

Investigators in the regional office in Denver, which handles many oil and gas cases, also sent out a series of requests during the Obama administration based on hints that energy producers were letting vast quantities of hazardous air pollutants escape into the atmosphere. The pollutants included benzene, which is a carcinogen, and methane, which is a major contributor to climate change. The investigations escalated after four workers at energy facilities in North Dakota were overcome by fumes and died.

As the Obama administration came to a close, companies had grown increasingly unhappy with the tests and began to fight them by turning to allies in Washington.

Koch Carbon, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, which operated two petcoke storage facilities in Chicago, challenged the E.P.A.'s authority to require the tests in a formal filing with the agency, E.P.A. documents show, although it still provided the information the agency had requested. The test results showed that its petcoke piles were, in fact, threatening neighbors and led to their removal.

DOCUMENT

Mr. Ron Ness
President
North Dakota Petroleum Council
100 West Broadway, Suite 200
P.O. Box 1395
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

RE: EPA Clean Air Act Compliance Assurance Activities in the Oil and Gas Sector

Dear Mr. Ness:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act enforcement and compliance assurance activities in the oil and gas sector. We discussed the concerns raised in your correspondence with involved staff at the EPA and the North Dakota Department of Health. We are focused on increased coordination and collaboration among the EPA, our state partners and oil and gas producers.

The EPA acknowledges the critical role that the oil and gas industry plays in ensuring the nation's energy independence through domestic energy production. We are committed to working with the oil and gas industry and our state partners to ensure domestic oil and gas production occurs in a safe and responsible manner and in compliance with applicable environmental laws. We recognize the efforts industry and our state partners have made to reduce excess emissions from oil and gas operations in order to protect and improve the nation's air quality.

Republicans in Congress, including Senator James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, took up the cause for the oil and gas industry. In public hearings, Mr. Inhofe interrogated E.P.A. officials about the tests and called them “a backdoor effort for the E.P.A. to cut greenhouse gas emissions.”

When Mr. Trump was elected and named Mr. Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general, to lead the E.P.A., the complaints got a fresh — and sympathetic — hearing. Ms. Shinkman, in an interview, said she was instructed to write the new policy memo after Mr. Pruitt received letters of complaint from oil industry executives in North Dakota and Colorado. Ms. Shinkman retired from the E.P.A. in September; in its statement to The Times, the E.P.A. did not say whether the oil and gas industry had been a factor in its decision.

Ron Ness, the president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, wrote to Mr. Pruitt in March describing the tests as burdensome and costly. “Under the previous administration, the E.P.A. initiated sweeping Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 114 information requests and threatened company-ending sanctions.” Mr. Ness wrote in a letter obtained by The Times.

In his response to Mr. Ness, Mr. Pruitt wrote that the E.P.A. would “develop best practices for the judicious use” of the requests, and also hand off much of the enforcement of air pollution laws to North Dakota officials, except on Indian lands where the federal government has jurisdiction.

“The E.P.A. acknowledges the critical role that the oil and gas industry plays in ensuring the nation's energy independence through domestic energy production,” Mr. Pruitt wrote to Mr. Ness in July.

The change in North Dakota was part of a broader effort by the E.P.A. to give states more say in how to treat polluters.

In a letter to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Edward Chu, the deputy

administrator of the E.P.A.'s regional office in Kansas, said the agency would back off some inspection and enforcement activity so the state could take the lead. "These shifts in direction do represent significant change," Mr. Chu wrote.

Officials in North Dakota said the new arrangement there is leading to faster resolution of cases involving the oil and gas industry.

"We are focused on compliance and fixes, not on big fines that are trumped up," said Jim Semerad, who leads the division of the North Dakota Department of Health that enforces air emissions rules.

But some critics question the sincerity of Mr. Pruitt's deference to state authorities, in part because it comes as the Trump administration has proposed cutting grants that help states pay for local enforcement. And the vigilance of some states in taking on the new responsibilities is also uncertain.

An audit by the E.P.A. inspector general in 2011 described North Dakota as "a state philosophically opposed to taking enforcement action" against polluters.

The state's fines, moreover, are a tiny fraction of those imposed by the E.P.A. for the same violations, records obtained by The Times show, and some North Dakota settlements do not require the hiring of independent inspectors to ensure companies honor their promises.



A building in downtown East Liverpool, Ohio. Citizens believe that a red dust that settles on their homes and property is chemical residue from nearby facilities. Credit Andrew Spear for The New York Times

In Ohio, a change in state law that was tucked into a budget bill this year cut funding for an

inspector in East Liverpool, even as Ohio authorities found continued evidence of air pollution violations at the Heritage Thermal incinerator, according to state records obtained by The Times.

Ohio Environmental Services Industry, a trade group that represents Heritage Thermal and a handful of other hazardous waste companies, pushed for the change. The group said the facility would receive sufficient oversight without the dedicated state inspector.

The changes across the country, some lawyers suggest, are giving violators an upper hand in negotiating with the E.P.A.

Paul Calamita, who represents cities accused of violating the Clean Water Act when they release sewage and contaminated storm water into rivers and lakes, recommends that clients team up with state governments to push back against the E.P.A.

Under President Trump, Mr. Calamita said, the E.P.A. and the Department of Justice have been willing to compromise, withdrawing a six-figure penalty in one instance after refusing to do so in two previous rounds of negotiations during the Obama administration.

“States with new Republican governors are following the Trump approach — providing compliance assistance at the outset to avoid enforcement where the discharger is cooperative,” he said in a presentation to utility executives from around the United States. “A state that pushes back on E.P.A. is likely to be successful.”

A Muscular Office Loses Muscle

The E.P.A. under Mr. Pruitt has pursued some high-profile prosecutions of polluters and has talked tough about companies like Fiat Chrysler, which like Volkswagen has been accused of installing software on its vehicles meant to evade emissions standards.

The agency’s biggest civil case filed since Mr. Trump took office involves Exxon Mobil, which was accused of not properly operating and monitoring industrial flares at its petrochemical facilities. Exxon agreed in October to pay \$2.5 million in civil penalties, some of which will go to Louisiana, and spend \$300 million to install new technology to reduce air pollution.

The agency on Friday also released a list of 21 Superfund sites contaminated with hazardous substances and pollutants that Mr. Pruitt has targeted for immediate and intense attention. One of the sites on the list, Tar Creek, a former lead and zinc mine, is in Oklahoma, where Mr. Pruitt once served as attorney general and state senator.

But more than a dozen current and former E.P.A. officials told The Times that the slowdown in enforcement is real on the ground, and that it is being directed from the top.

At the Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building in Chicago, which houses a regional office of the E.P.A., employees said it has become difficult to even start a new investigation. Because it covers states populated with Rust Belt industries, the Chicago office has traditionally been one of the busiest of the 10 regions.

An agency spokeswoman, in a statement, said “we have not rejected any requests for sampling, monitoring and testing” that were sent to headquarters as a result of the new policy. But agency staff said the memo made clear such requests were discouraged, and many fewer were being drafted.

Jeff Trevino, a lawyer in the Chicago office, who has worked for the agency for 27 years, said the new hurdles imposed by Mr. Pruitt had created “a Catch-22” because, with new policies effectively discouraging requests for information, investigators will have a harder time getting the data needed to detect and confirm violations.

Mr. Trevino, like other current E.P.A. employees, was not authorized by the agency to speak with The Times, and did so as a member of the labor union.



Felicia Chase is a water pollution enforcement officer in the office of the E.P.A. that covers states from Minnesota to Ohio. CreditAlyssa Schukar for The New York Times

“We are the boots on the ground and we just are having a hard time now getting the information we need to do our job,” said Felicia Chase, who has worked for nearly a decade as a water pollution enforcement officer in the Chicago office, which covers states from Minnesota to Ohio. She was also speaking in her capacity as a union member.

Ms. Chase sat glumly in the cafeteria just before Thanksgiving. On a television set on the wall, President Trump could be seen offering an official pardon to a turkey, joking that he could not reverse Mr. Obama’s turkey pardons from the previous year.

Some workers said they would take the unusual step of asking members of Congress to protect funding for the work they do, while others said they held out hope that the new restrictions on information gathering would not be permanent. Ms. Shinkman, the retired author of the May memo, said she had hoped to avoid a sharp drop in requests for information, but she declined to

elaborate how that would be possible.

Mr. Czerniak, who led the air pollution unit in Chicago until his retirement in 2016, said it was hard to watch the agency struggle through this new era.

“People at the agency are just being cautious, almost to the point of paralysis,” he said. “They do not want to do anything for fear of being told they have done something wrong — something the new administrator won’t like.”

NEW YORK TIMES

The Scientists Who Track Climate Change in the Field

By Jordan Teicher

December 11, 2017

While the consequences of climate change — fierce storms, fragmenting glaciers, blazing fires — can be dramatic, the scientific research supporting its existence is anything but. It’s precise, rigorous and routine work, and though it takes place every day all over the world, it largely goes unnoticed.

Over the past decade, Lucas Foglia’s photographic exploration of the relationship between people and nature has given him a glimpse of the effects of a changing climate from Texas to Sweden. But his interest in climate science started in 2012, after Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on his family’s farm on Long Island, N.Y. For Mr. Foglia, the urge to better understand the forces that contributed to that destruction meant seeking out the unsung individuals who track those forces every day.

“Given how much climate change is in the news,” he said, “surprisingly little attention is paid to the scientists measuring the air.”

They finally get their moment in the spotlight in his book, “Human Nature,” which was published by Nazraeli Press. Over the last two years, Mr. Foglia photographed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate scientists in Colorado and Hawaii. He also spent time in Alaska with the Juneau Icefield Research Program, whose scientists maintain the longest-running study of any glacier in the Western Hemisphere.



Forrest Mimms surrounded by NOAA equipment at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. The M.F.R.S.R. is an instrument that measures the global, direct, and diffuse components of solar irradiance at up to seven wavelengths. Credit Lucas Foglia/Courtesy of Fredericks and Freiser Gallery

While climate science is complex, NOAA's public affairs officer, Theo Stein, said, its methodical, daily execution can appear humdrum.

"It involves people taking measurements with instruments in the same place regularly over a long period of time to build a record," Mr. Stein said.

Mr. Foglia's photos don't shy away from that mundane routine. Many of his images depict regular-looking people operating regular-looking machines. Sometimes, in fact, it's the same machine over and over. The man shown measuring the air on Colorado's Niwot Ridge, for instance, is using the same portable sampling unit that another man is pictured using at Cape Kumukahi in Hawaii. And they're just two of the dozens of scientists around the world who use that machine to get similar samples, which are then analyzed for greenhouse gases.

"One person's experience in one place doesn't make a global fact," Mr. Foglia said. "It's the coordinated global effort that creates our understanding."

Among the everyday, Mr. Foglia captured some unusual sights. He noticed an otherworldly crown of thorns plant blooming in a nondescript NOAA office. He caught a scientist appearing to levitate as she descended by rope on a melting glacier. And he found the playfulness in the launch of a balloon-borne scientific instrument from a Colorado field.



Duane Kitzis extends the inlet for the P.S.U., or Portable Sampling Unit, on Niwot Ridge, Colorado. P.S.U.'s are used at over 90 sites around the world to collect air that is then analyzed for concentrations of green house gases. Credit Lucas Foglia/Courtesy of Fredericks and Freiser Gallery

“I had imagined that climate science would look incredibly advanced, the way science is often pictured on TV,” he said. “When I got there, I realized it was advanced, but the appearance of it was two men with a balloon.”

Mr. Foglia’s photos constitute a straightforward documentary record. But they also serve as a call to action. By drawing attention to climate science in the United States in particular, he said, he hopes viewers notice that “the science here is most at risk.” In March, the Trump administration proposed cutting NOAA’s budget 17 percent.

Fighting climate change, Mr. Foglia said, is a daunting task that can seem impossibly broad in its scope. But having programs and people to rally behind, he said, can lend that effort focus and optimism.

“I think these scientists are examples of people engaged in programs that deserve support,” Mr. Foglia said.

WASHINGTON POST

EPA lists 21 toxic Superfund sites that need 'immediate and intense' cleanup

By Brady Dennis

December 8, 2017

The Environmental Protection Agency released a list of Superfund sites around the country Friday that it said regulators will target “for immediate and intense attention.”

The push is part of Administrator Scott Pruitt’s promise to prioritize the decades-old cleanup program, even as the Trump administration shrinks the size and reach of the EPA. The 21 sites highlighted by the agency span the country, from a former tannery site in New Hampshire to a contaminated landfill from the World War II-era Manhattan Project in St. Louis to an abandoned copper mine in Nevada.

“By elevating these sites, we are sending a message that EPA is, in fact, restoring its Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the agency’s mission,” Pruitt said in a statement. “Getting toxic land sites cleaned up and revitalized is of the utmost importance to the communities across the country that are affected by these sites.”

The EPA said that it developed the list using sites “where opportunities exist to act quickly and comprehensively.” Notably, the agency also acknowledged that “there is no commitment of additional funding associated with a site’s inclusion on the list.”

David Konisky, a political scientist at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, questioned how EPA put together the list of sites it released Friday.

“I do find the rationale for inclusion on the list to be strange,” Konisky, who has written extensively about the Superfund program, said in an email. “The EPA selected sites based on the ability of the Administrator to help achieve an upcoming milestone or site-specific action. This strikes me as mostly about creating a credit-claiming opportunity for Pruitt, rather than prioritizing additional resources to sites where communities face the most significant health risks.”

There are more than 1,300 Superfund sites nationwide, some of which have lingered for years on the EPA’s “national priorities list.” While Pruitt has repeatedly spoken about his focus on the program, calling it “vital” and a “cornerstone” of the EPA’s mission, critics have noted that the Trump administration has proposed slashing the Superfund budget by 30 percent. They also worry that a single-minded focus on speeding up the process at particular sites could result in inadequate cleanups.



Radioactive waste was dumped at the West Lake Landfill outside of St. Louis in the 1970s, and the EPA's project to protect the area from contaminants has not been completed.

"It's happy talk," Nancy Loeb, director of the Environmental Advocacy Center at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, told The Washington Post in the summer, noting how funding for the program has shrunk over time. "We have Superfund sites, but we don't have a super fund."

At many contaminated sites across the country, the EPA can legally force companies responsible for the pollution to pay for cleanups. But tapping private dollars isn't an option at some Superfund sites. At these "orphaned" sites, polluting companies long ago went bankrupt or ceased to be liable, and the cleanup responsibilities now fall mostly to the federal government. It's difficult to envision such places getting fixed without an adequate Superfund budget.

"If we feel like the numbers of the budget are not sufficient to address those, we'll be sure to let Congress know," Pruitt said in an interview with The Post in the spring, echoing an answer he gave during a hearing this week to lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Early in his tenure at EPA, Pruitt created a Superfund "task force" to come up with ways to expedite cleanups and redevelop sites across the country. He also announced that he personally would be involved in decisions around sites where decontamination is estimated to cost \$50 million or more.

While Friday's list includes an array of sites, Pruitt has repeatedly focused on a landfill with radioactive waste outside St. Louis, known as West Lake, and a public housing complex saturated with lead contamination in East Chicago, Ind. Both sites were included on the agency's updated list.

The West Lake landfill has decomposing trash 150 feet underground that is radiating heat in

what scientists call “a subsurface burning event.” The smoldering trash is adjacent to a separate 200-acre landfill containing 60 acres of radioactive waste dating to the World War II-era Manhattan Project.

Pruitt visited the Indiana site earlier this year, where residents have been moved from their homes for fear of dangerous exposure to the contaminated soil.

“Over a billion dollars have been spent at these sites,” Pruitt told reporters this summer. “We need talent, expertise ... to make sure we have a detailed plan with a timeline and benchmarks.” That is what’s needed, he added at the time, “instead of incrementally dealing with it.”

CNN

[EPA removes climate change references from website, report says](#)

By Madison Park

December 8, 2017

References to climate change and the Environmental Protection Agency's use of renewable energy have been removed from several of its web pages, according to an analysis by the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative.

The group regularly monitors tens of thousands of federal environmental agency web pages to document what has been changed or scrubbed. It released a report Friday, noting changes to the website in the fall, including links to the EPA's climate change adaptation plan and policy that have been removed.

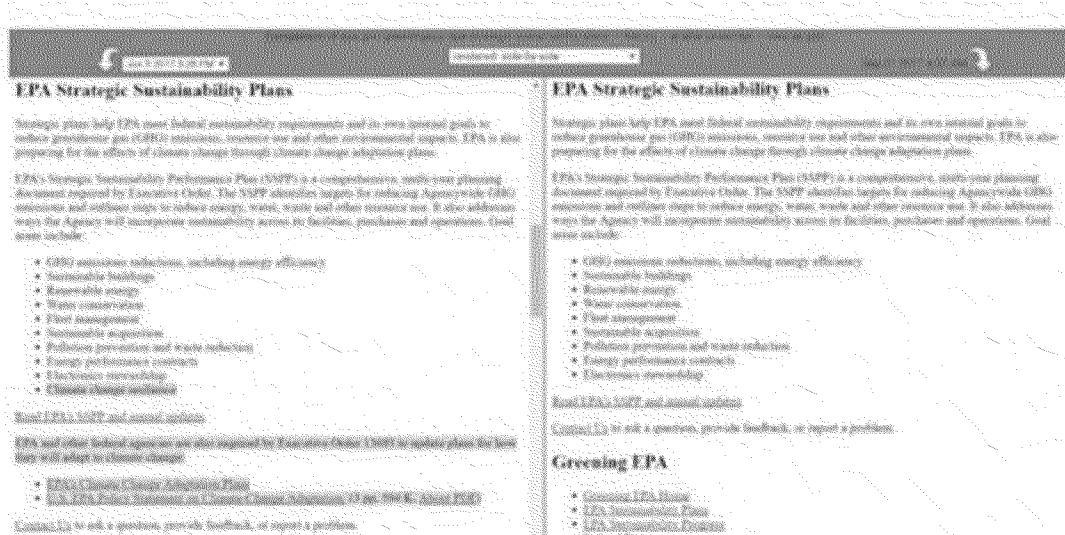
This is not the first time references to climate change have been cut from its website.

CNN reported previously that the Trump administration has been swapping out the phrase "climate change," while avoiding references to global warming. And in April, environmental groups were dismayed when climate change information was removed from the EPA site with a message that the page was being updated to "reflect the approach of new leadership."

CNN has reached out to the EPA for comment.

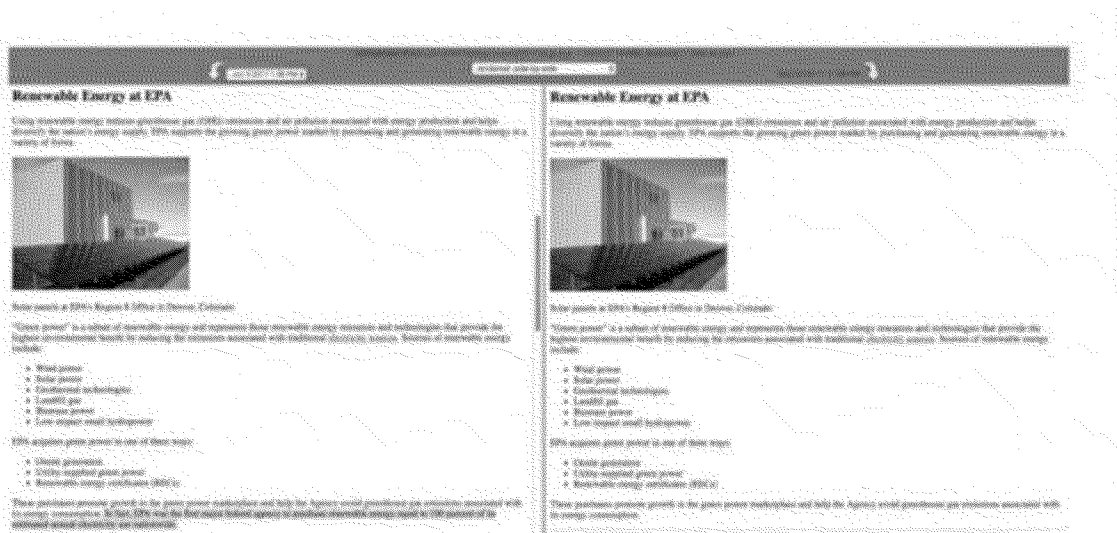
However, there are more than 5,000 results when the term "climate change" is searched on the EPA's website.

Here are some of the changes reported by the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative:



Internet Archive's Wayback Machine: previous version from August 8, 2017 and current version from September 30, 2017

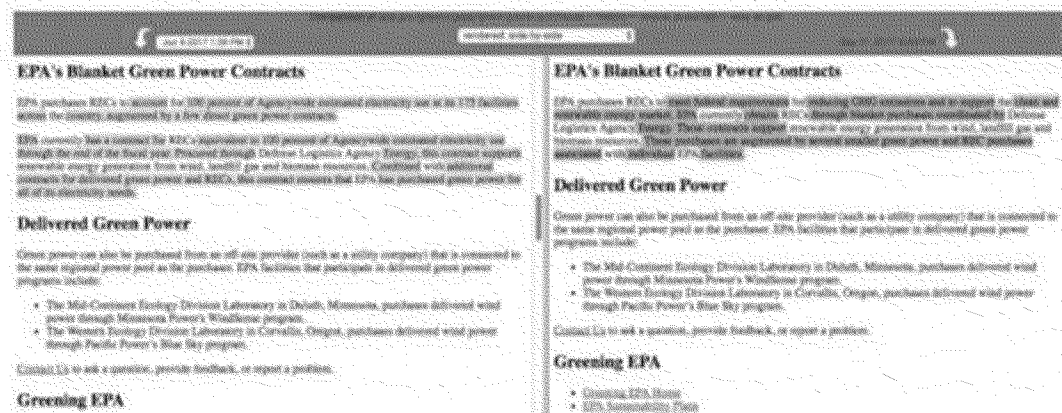
- On the above page, several references to climate change have been removed. Previously, it had listed "climate change resilience" as one of the EPA's strategic plans in August. It had also contained two links to EPA's climate change adaptation plan and its policy statement on climate change adaptation, which are no longer there.



Internet Archive's Wayback Machine: previous version from June 29, 2017 and current version from October 17, 2017

- On another web page, the reference to how the EPA was the "first major federal agency to

purchase renewable energy equal to 100% of its estimated annual electricity use nationwide" has been removed.



Internet Archive's Wayback Machine: previous version from [July 7, 2017](#) and current version from [November 6, 2017](#)

- That same statistic about how the EPA uses renewable energy equal to 100% of its estimated annual electricity use, has been edited out on another web page.

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